Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-52 are cancelled.

In the Claims:

53. (Currently amended) A method for providing a modified enkephalin peptide having altered ~~altering the~~ binding affinity ~~of a peptide~~ to its receptor yet retaining analgesic activity, the method comprising conjugating the enkephalin peptide to an amphiphilic oligomer comprising a fatty acid or alkyl moiety having from 4 to 26 carbons coupled to a polyethylene glycol moiety having from 1 to 7 polyethylene glycol units to yield the modified enkephalin peptide conjugate~~lipophilic moiety coupled to a hydrophilic moiety~~.

54. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 53 ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the binding affinity is increased.

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 53 ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the binding affinity is reduced.

56. (Cancelled).

57. (Cancelled).

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 53 wherein the enkephalin peptide is [met^5]enkephalin.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Cancelled).

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Cancelled).

64. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the receptor is an opioid receptor.

65. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the fatty acid or alkyl moiety has from 14 to 22 carbon atoms.

66. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the polyethylene glycol moiety has from 1 to 5 polyethylene glycol units.

67. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the oligomer is coupled to the enkephalin peptide by an amide or carbamate bond.

68. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the oligomer is coupled to the enkephalin peptide at the N-terminus.

69. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the enkephalin peptide is modified at the N-terminus with a proline or alanine, and the oligomer is coupled to the enkephalin peptide at the N-terminus.

70. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the oligomer is coupled to the enkephalin peptide at the C-terminus.

71. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the oligomer is coupled to the enkephalin peptide at an amino group of a lysine.

72. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the enkephalin peptide is methionine-enkephalin or leucine-enkephalin.

73. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the enkephalin peptide is an enkephalin analog.

74. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising combining the enkephalin peptide conjugate with a carrier to provide a pharmaceutical composition.

75. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the polyethylene glycol moiety is coupled to the enkephalin peptide.

76. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the polyethylene glycol moiety is coupled at an N-terminus of the enkephalin peptide.

77. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the enkephalin peptide conjugate produces its intended pharmacological effect without cleavage of the oligomer.

78. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the enkephalin peptide conjugate produces an analgesic effect when administered peripherally.

79. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein the polyethylene glycol moiety is coupled at an N-terminus of the enkephalin peptide.

80. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein the enkephalin peptide conjugate produces its intended pharmacological effect without cleavage of the oligomer.

81. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein (a) the polyethylene glycol moiety is coupled at an N-terminus of the enkephalin peptide, and (b) the enkephalin peptide conjugate produces its intended pharmacological effect without cleavage of the oligomer.

82. (New) A method for altering the binding affinity of an enkephalin peptide to its receptor, the method comprising coupling the enkephalin peptide to an amphiphilic oligomer comprising a lipophilic moiety coupled to a polyethylene glycol moiety having from 1 to 7 polyethylene glycol units, wherein the polyethylene glycol moiety is coupled at the N-terminus of the enkephalin peptide conjugate, and wherein the lipophilic moiety comprises an alkyl moiety or a fatty acid moiety.